

A True and Exact Account 20
OF THE
Manner of Committing
THE
BISHOPS
TO THE
TOWER.

With Several Remarkable Passages relating thereunto.

ON *Friday* the 8th of *June*. Being the day on which the Seven Petitioning Bishops, viz. the Archbishop of *Canterbury*, the Bishop of *Ely*, *Bath* and *Wells*, *Bristol*, *Chichester*, *Peterborough* and *St. Asaph*, were summoned to attend the King and Council, to answer the Misdemeanors charged against them, for disobeying the Kings Order, and denying his Dispensing Power.

They all met at *Lambeth House*, and after they had been at Prayers, they attended the Archbishop to the Barge, and so came together to *Whitehall*, where they landed at about half an hour after four; the People at their Landing shewed a great deal of Veneration and Reverence to their Lordships, making a Lane for them to pass, and bowing almost to their Feet: They were conducted to a Room near the Treasury Chamber, where they tarried about half an hour; after which they went up stairs into a room contiguous to the Council Chamber; at about half an hour after Five, His Majesty came into Council, where the first business that was dispatched, was the several Petitioners, who always attended.

Then their Lordships the Bishops were called in before the King and Council, where they continued a considerable time; then were remanded, and so went backward and forward some four or five times; during which the Earl of *Berkley* was observed often to leave the Council, and

...and retire and discourse the Bishops, but by reason the Door of the Council Chamber was close shut, and none permitted to enter, but those of the Honourable Council, we are able to give but a slender account at present of what was transacted within; only 'tis said upon the whole, their Lordships the Bishops were very uncondescending as to the Points on which their Charge was grounded, protesting they all acted according to Conscience and Mature Deliberation, and persisted refusing to read the said Declaration for Liberty of Conscience.

'Tis also said, they refused to enter into Recognizance of 500 l. a man, to appear the First day of the next Term, and answer to an Information which the Kings Attorney General should Exhibit against them, for subscribing and presenting a Libel, which Robs the King of one Branch of His Prerogative, viz. His Dispensing Power, as hath been determined by the Judges, and was now largely made out by the Lord Chancellor, and the Lord Chief Justice Herbert, &c. Upon which, by Warrant Signed, as 'tis said, by fourteen Lords of the Council, they were all Seven committed Prisoners to the Tower: Then the King rose, and the Council broke up. The King during the whole Debate, was very mild with them.

The Bishops came down, attended by a Serjeant at Arms, and took water at the same Stairs where they landed, which was about half an hour after Seven, (this Affair having taken up the Council about two hours) and were carried to the Tower in the Archbishop of Canterbury's Barge, where arriving, they were received by Sir Edward Hales, with a great deal of Honour and Respect. The croud of Spectators was very great, that the like hath hardly been seen, and happy was he that could appear before their Lordships, all whose Countenances testified their Sorrows. The Archbishop gave the Blessing on the People as they passed by them.

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